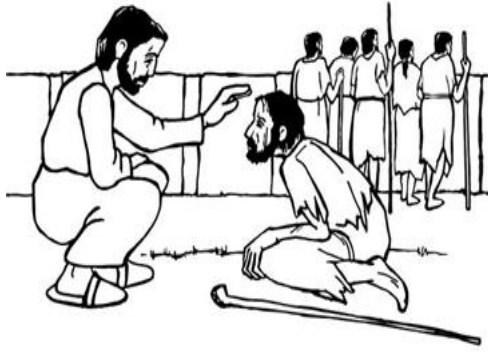


ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

October
12,
2025



The 18th
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

THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

-
- + **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

"Give Thanks"

arranged by J. Rainey

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please KNEEL, or remain as you are. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace, you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins + are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Please STAND* "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" ELW 858



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign-ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-va-tion!
and, as on wings of an ea-gle, up-lift-ing, sus-tain-ing.
sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!

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.**

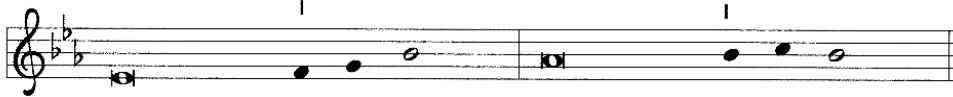
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

PSALM 111 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**Respect for the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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

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

S 151a



GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

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

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

SERMON

"Playing on the Same Field"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 "God of grace," is "Hear our prayer"...*

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, **Dusty** Little

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.*

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.*

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Peace, Troubled Soul"

Arranged by Johnson

Lyrics to the anthem are printed on the last page

Soloist: Peggy Andersen

OFFERING PRAYER *Please **STAND** as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together...

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you,
who richly provides for us.**

**Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 152

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.

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

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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 *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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*

S 154

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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:

“Come to the Water of Life”

ACS 955

1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for
love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

ELW 543

1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

*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.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION

“Now Lord”

ELW 201

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
 been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
 which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
 a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together...

**O God, through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.**

Send us to do good and to share our resources with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the blessed and most holy Trinity –

Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit –

bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Give to God Our Immortal Praise!”

ELW 848

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful”

arr. B. Mayo

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

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

Lector: Curtis Dowty + **Crucifer:** Frank Dressel + **Chalice Bearer:** Tom Partelow

Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** TBD

Ushers: Rick Crosby & Rex Rothgangel + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

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 Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam,
Patty Brennecke, Julia Cardoza, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison,
Richard Fahrner, Katrina Fenner, Andrea Hendrix, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie,
Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens,
Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martisus,
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

Aaron Fuchs (10/12), Laura Egler (10/13), Jaxson Robinson (10/13), and Luke Geppert (10/15)

Lyrics to today's anthem

Peace, Troubled Soul Arranged by Johnson

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Peace, Troubled Soul, Thou Need Not Fear;
Jesus Says He Will Be With You To The End.
The Great Provider Still Is Near, Alleluia. | 3 The Lord Who Built The Earth And Sky,
In Mercy Stoops To Hear Your Cry. |
| 2 Without Reserve Give Christ Your Heart,
Let Him His Righteousness Impart; | 4 His Promise All May Freely Claim
Ask And Receive In Jesus' Name. |

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

More **MARK TIMES**

SHARE THE WARMTH October 5 thru 26, 2025: Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie **5000 Blankets** and the needs of our food pantry clients, we are collecting gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves** for the homeless in our area. **Warming blankets, handwarmers and new underwear for men and women** are also appreciated! Donations will be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided periodically. A collection container is in the Narthex!

Our All Saints Sunday worship service is **Sunday, November 2** 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.



GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 15

The holiday season can stir difficult emotions, especially after the loss of a loved one. Again this year we are offering the one-day, two-hour session of *Surviving the Holidays* to offer support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this time with peace and assurance. Join St. Mark's special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 15** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at griefshare.org/events/276776



NOTE: Even if you attended this session last year, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from *Surviving the Holidays* in ways that you don't anticipate.

Franklin School Lunch Packing

We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students at Franklin school for all long weekends, and we welcome volunteers! Packing requires about an hour on the day before most holiday weekends. See Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) to sign up or for questions. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs near the coffee hour tables. Your support is so much appreciated!

Join the Choir!

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! Check out our new Thursday rehearsal times: Voice choir meets at 4:00PM; Men's Choir meets at 5:30PM; and Bell Choir meets at 6:00PM.

Offerings (10/5): General Fund: \$5,177.60; **Staff (Christmas) Gift:** \$200.91;



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 "Come to the Water of Life" ©1999 Augsburg Fortress Publishers; "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" ©1983 Concordia Publishing House; "Now, Lord" © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" ©1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved.. Some hymn music has been altered due to space considerations. All other printed hymns used are in the Public Domain.

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for October 12, 2025

Monday, Oct. 13: Office Closed — Columbus Day

Thursday, Oct. 16: 4:00PM Chancel choir
5:30PM Men's Chorus
6:00PM Bell Choir
6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Thurs. 10/16 thru Sun. 10/19 Pastor Away at Continuing Education

Adult Forum: A History of Exorcism in the Lutheran Church

Join us during today's Adult Forum for a class on *The History of Exorcism in the Lutheran Church*. Beginning with the surprising Lutheran connection to the real-life story behind *The Exorcist*, Pastor Brian traces how Martin Luther's baptismal rites included exorcisms, how these practices changed over time, and how remnants remain in today's baptismal renunciations. We'll also compare Lutheran practice with Eastern churches, where exorcisms still form part of baptism, and answer whether Lutheran pastors actually perform exorcisms! Don't miss this fascinating exploration!



Pastor at Continuing Education

Pastor Brian will be away for a conference this **Thursday, October 16 through Sunday, October 19**. In case of **pastoral emergency**, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier at 785-220-5528**.

Downtown Belleville Trick-or-Treat on Friday, October 24!

We're so excited to be participating in this community family event again! We will hand out hot chocolate and Christian-themed Halloween suckers with an invitation to visit us, and other goodies.



VOLUNTEERS are needed! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and the Parish Hall.

- 1) **SET UP 3:30 TO 5:00PM: 4-5 PEOPLE** to load two 8' tables, two half-tables and 6 chairs at the church and set them up at our space on East Main, unload and set-up a 10 x 10 canopy and transport 5-gallon containers of hot chocolate/water from the church to our space. Hang church signs and decorate the space after the canopy is set up.
- 2) **HOT CHOCOLATE PREP: 3:30 TO 4:45PM: 2 PEOPLE** to heat water, fill containers and mix hot chocolate
- 3) **HANDOUT HOT CHOCOLATE, SUCKERS AND OTHER GOODIES: 5:00 to 7:30: 4-6 PEOPLE** volunteer for an hour, 2 hours, or the full 2.5 hours.
- 4) **TEARDOWN/CLEAN UP 7:30 TO 8:15PM: 4 PEOPLE** to pack up remaining products, break down tables, canopy, decorations, load and return items to the church and unload them.

Pastor Brian will make an appearance as an undisclosed character for kids to take photos with. It's a grand time and worth a couple hours of your time for the fun of it all!

From the Parish Nurse: Symptoms to Watch—Early Signs of Breast Cancer

Breast cancer doesn't always show early symptoms, which is why regular mammograms are so critical. Still, knowing what to look for helps you take charge of your health.

Common warning signs include:

- A new lump in the breast or underarm
- Swelling or thickening in part of the breast
- Skin changes, such as dimpling or redness
- Nipple changes, including pulling inward, itching, or unusual discharge
- Changes in breast size or shape
- Persistent pain or tenderness
- Swollen lymph nodes near the collarbone or underarm

Not all lumps are cancerous, but no change should be ignored. If something feels unusual, schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider. Acting quickly is always better than waiting.

Mammograms remain the gold standard for detecting breast cancer before symptoms appear. Paired with self-awareness and routine checkups, they dramatically improve survival rates. Pay attention to your body—and encourage loved ones to do the same.



Reformation Dinner & Hymn Fest

Join us **Saturday** evening, **October 25** from **6-8PM** in the **Parish Hall** for an evening of **Reformation Day fellowship** with a classic **Lutheran potluck** and a beloved old-fashioned **hymn-sing!** **A sign-up** sheet to bring a dish is **in the Parish Hall**.

We're introducing a new element to this year's event: a **Reformation-themed costume contest!** Martin Luther's nemesis **Pope Leo X** himself will be on hand to infallibly judge the Best-in-Show, with a coveted indulgence awarded to the winner!

Some costume ideas: Martin or Katie Luther; a monk or nun; a church door; the 95 Theses; an indulgence; a hammer; any medieval Lord or Lady; or whatever you can come up with!

Table Talk on Hiatus

After prayerful consideration, I have decided to place the monthly **Table Talk** Bible class on indefinite hiatus.

St. Mark Table Talk began in the fall of 2017 as a relaxed, midweek, single-topic Bible study—a successor to the long-running Tuesday morning Bible class. It was designed to stand alone from week to week and to offer an alternative for those who preferred not to attend a class after Sunday worship. Over the years, Table Talk provided a welcoming, conversational space to share faith and insights over lunch.

Attendance was strong in the early years, but—like many ministries—Table Talk never fully recovered after the COVID-19 pandemic. Participation has steadily declined, with recent classes drawing only a handful of people, most of whom also attend Sunday's Adult Forum. After much reflection, it seems the best use of time and energy is to incorporate upcoming Table Talk topics into the Sunday morning schedule rather than continue a separate session.

I remain deeply grateful for all who have taken part in Table Talk since its beginning. Your curiosity, conversation, and companionship have made these gatherings a rich part of our shared ministry. Thank you for the insights and stories and experiences we've shared together around the table! - *Pastor Brian*