

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 9,
2025



The First
Sunday in
Lent

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1st Saturdays - Chapel*)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

in-person & streaming

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618.233.9809

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor

PLEASE wear a **mask/face covering** *if* you are **exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

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 walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

Parish Hall and Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. 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.

PRELUDE

“Take Up Your Cross”

by E. Broughton

WELCOME *Please RISE in body or in spirit*

Blessed be the one God who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever - Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. You may KNEEL or remain as you are.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

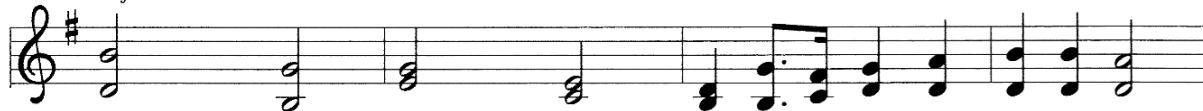


- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

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.**

KYRIE

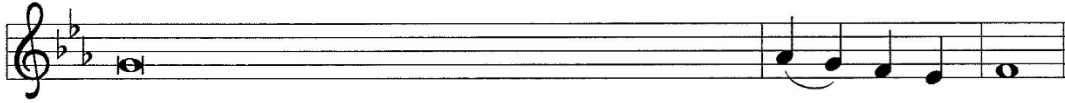
S 98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 *spoken in unison*

**¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—**

**²you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust."**

**⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge, and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰no evil | will befall you, nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you, to guard you in | all your ways.

¹²Upon their hands they will | bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;

you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴I will deliver those who | cling to me; I will uphold them, because they | know my name.

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶With long life will I | satisfy them, and show them | my salvation.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b}"The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

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

S 103

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

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

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

SERMON

"Confronting the Shadows"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Bless Now, O God, The Journey"

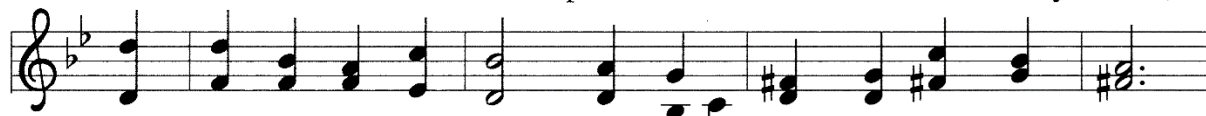
ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

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 *Spoken*

**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, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, receive Christ's mercy—bread for the journey, grace for the broken.

LAMB OF GOD

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

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.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

FLUTE SOLO

How Firm a Foundation by Olstad

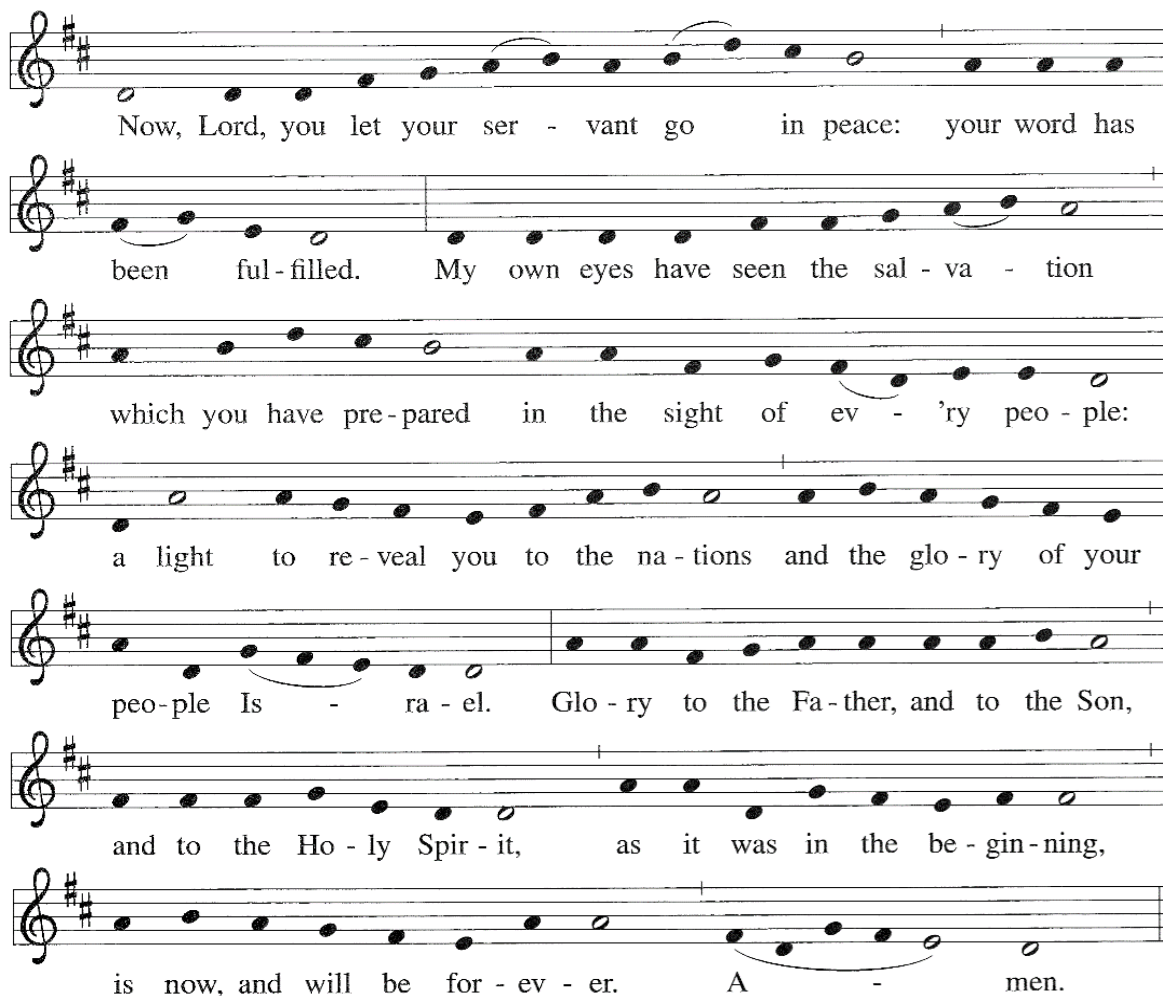
Nick Baker

TABLE BLESSING *After the distribution please STAND.*

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...

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

My God - our tender parent, the crucified one, the reconciling Spirit - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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1 As the sun with long-er jour-ney melts the win-ter's snow and ice,
 2 Through the days of wait-ing, watch-ing, in the des-ert of our sin,
 3 Praise be giv-en to the mak-er of the sea-sons' year-ly round:



with its slow-ly grow-ing ra-diance warms the seed be-neath the earth,
 search-ing on the far ho-ri-zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
 Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it—Source, Sus-tain-er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up-ris-ing gent-ly bring our hearts to life.
 we a-wait the heal-ing wa-ters of our Sav-ior's vic-to-ry.
 as the ev-er turn-ing a-ges roll to their e-ter-nal rest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary”

by G.F. Handel

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Danielle Tribout

Crucifer: Frank Dressel + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow + **Tech Minister & Lector:** Aaron Fuchs

Ushers: Rick Crosby & Rex Rothgangel + **Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

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

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

Land Acknowledgement

St. Mark Lutheran 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 wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Wilma Shroat, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Jordyn Brazelton, Patty Brennecke, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, 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, Sue Witherell, 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 Celebrating Birthdays This Week

Sue Patrick (3/14) and Aria Hayes (3/14)

Members Who Mourn the Loss of Loved Ones

Terry Tribout and family on the death of Terry's aunt, **Marian Tribout** (3/4)

Lyrics to Today's Choir Anthem

"Stay With Us" - Herbert Broekering, author; Walter Pelz, composer

Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to you this day be sung. Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.

Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace impart; Jesus, bring eternal life.

Game Day March 29

Bring a board game and a snack to share, or just pop over for a great time on **Saturday, March 29** from **2:00-4:00PM** in the **Parish Hall**. Invite other members and friends to join in the fun. Drinks will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.



Kids for Christ Trivia Night - April 5

Super fun trivia night with HUGE silent auction!! Doors open at 5:30PM. Trivia begins at 6:30PM

Tables of 8/\$160 - reserve by emailing **lordsservant3@outlook.com**

1st place prize - \$200 2nd place - \$100

Feel free to bring your own snacks, but no alcohol or outside drinks. Soda and water will be for sale, and desserts are provided!

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for March 9, 2025

- Monday, March 10:** 9:30AM Health & Wellness Meeting – Conference Room
- Wednesday, Mar. 12:** 9:30AM Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting – Conference Room
12:00PM Ladies' Lunch Bunch – Papa Vito's, Belleville
6:00PM Soup Supper – Parish Hall
7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent - Church
- Thursday, March 13:** 6:15PM Bell choir rehearsal
7:00PM Chancel choir rehearsal
- Saturday, March 15:** 12:15PM Tour of Our Brother's Keepers (meet in church parking lot)

Today's Adult Forum: *Introduction to GriefShare*

Join us in the Parish Hall **TODAY, Sunday, March 9** as Nurse Becky offers an introductory class about the GriefShare program beginning at St. Mark on March 25 (see below).

GriefShare Group at St. Mark Begins March 25

With the success of the November holiday event and positive reviews of the program overall, St. Mark will host a full GriefShare program at the church **beginning Tuesday, March 25**. Sessions will be held from **6:30-8:00PM** in the **Parish Hall on first, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays, and in the conference room on second and third Tuesdays** due to available space.



A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 11-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

The program includes video seminars, small group discussions, and personal study and reflection. Each session covers different aspects of grief, providing valuable guidance and support.

Sign up at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/261743>. All are welcome! The program is free but freewill donations are accepted.

Tour of Our Brother's Keepers on March 15



Members, family and friends are invited to **tour the Our Brother's Keepers of Southern IL facility** at 614 N. 7th Street in East St. Louis **THIS Saturday, March 15**. We will meet in the church parish hall at **12:15pm** and carpool to the facility for our 45-minute to 60-minute tour.

Those planning to attend are asked to **sign up to ensure enough transportation** and no one is left behind! ***Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex (Canterbury Room) and in the Parish Hall.***

St. Mark Offerings (3/2): General Fund: **\$4,312**; Franklin Lunches: \$191.08; Coffee Fund: \$26;



Ladies' Lunch Bunch – THIS Wednesday*

The LLB meets **THIS Wednesday, March 12** at **12 noon** at **Papa Vito's** (318 East Washington Street, Belleville). Questions? Contact Mary Boxdorfer at 618-233-0160.

*An incorrect date (3/19) was initially reported to the office. The event is indeed **THIS Wednesday, 3/12**.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer

Come enjoy a nice evening of fellowship over a meal of **soup and salad at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall** starting **THIS Wednesday, March 12**, before joining us in the **church for evening prayer at 7:00PM**.

One spot remains open for **a group to host one of the suppers!** The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Noisy/Not-So-Noisy Change Collection for Franklin School

Dig through your couch, car seats, purse and other places change hides! Interaction with Franklin school determined many students still owe past due lunch, snack and book fees totaling ~\$2900. Collection will be taken March 9 and 16 during worship. Electronic donation may be made to https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile_direct,



Lenten Quiet Day at Toddhall

On **Saturday, April 5**, from 9:30AM to 2:30PM, Pastor Brian will lead a spiritual Quiet Day at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center in Columbia. The event includes time for worship, prayer and reflection, lunch at Toddhall, as well as spiritual lectures and opportunities to walk the grounds of the retreat center. The event is free to attend, and a freewill offering will be taken on the day to cover the cost of lunch. **Registrations are required by end-of-day today, Sunday, March 9** to obtain an accurate headcount for the meal. Register at <https://forms.gle/NZmXZGqz6hcQo4eo6>.

Yoga Classes PAUSED

Due to the Parish Hall being unavailable on Thursdays during Lent, a new day is being proposed for the yoga classes. Since changes to the schedule must be approved by St. George's Vestry, and since the current agreement ran only through the end of February, **yoga classes are paused until after the Vestry meets on March 11**. Watch for further information here in the *Mark Times*.

Diaper Drive Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to our **Epiphany Diaper Drive** January 5 through February 9 for little ones in need in our community. In addition to product and monetary donations, Thrivent gift cards enabled us to purchase \$500 in additional diapers, training pants and diaper creams. Through Target specials, we were able to donate another 4 boxes. The collection was distributed to our Food Pantry, the Pregnancy Care Center, and the Violence Prevention Center and Fontabella Maternity Home.

Thank You from Newsome Family

Dear St. Mark friends - Thank you so much for your care-filled cards, notes and messages on the recent passing of Mae Newsome. Dick and I appreciate them more than you know. Mae had a long and happy life, and it was enhanced these last years with many of you. Sharing your time, listening to her speak (that accent!) and completing projects with the sewing group all brought meaning to her life. Thank you again for your care and concern. Sincerely, **Cheryl Newsome**