

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

September 7,
2025



The 13th
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

“Prelude on ‘Thaxted’”

Holst/Callahan

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - our maker, our helper, and our keeper - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.
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* “Earth and All Stars”

ELW 731 v 1-2, 5

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too sing prais - es with a new song!

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!

Sing to the Lo--rd a new song! Daughter and Son!

Loud praying members! Sing to the Lo--rd a new song! *Refrain*

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... Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

SECOND READING: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [|] of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats [|] of the scornful!
²Their delight is in the law [|] of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching [|] day and night.
³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that [|] do not wither;
everything they [|] do shall prosper.
⁴It is not so [|] with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind [|] blows away.
⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when [|] judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council [|] of the righteous.
⁶For the LORD knows the way [|] of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall [|] be destroyed.

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

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

S 151a



GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

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

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

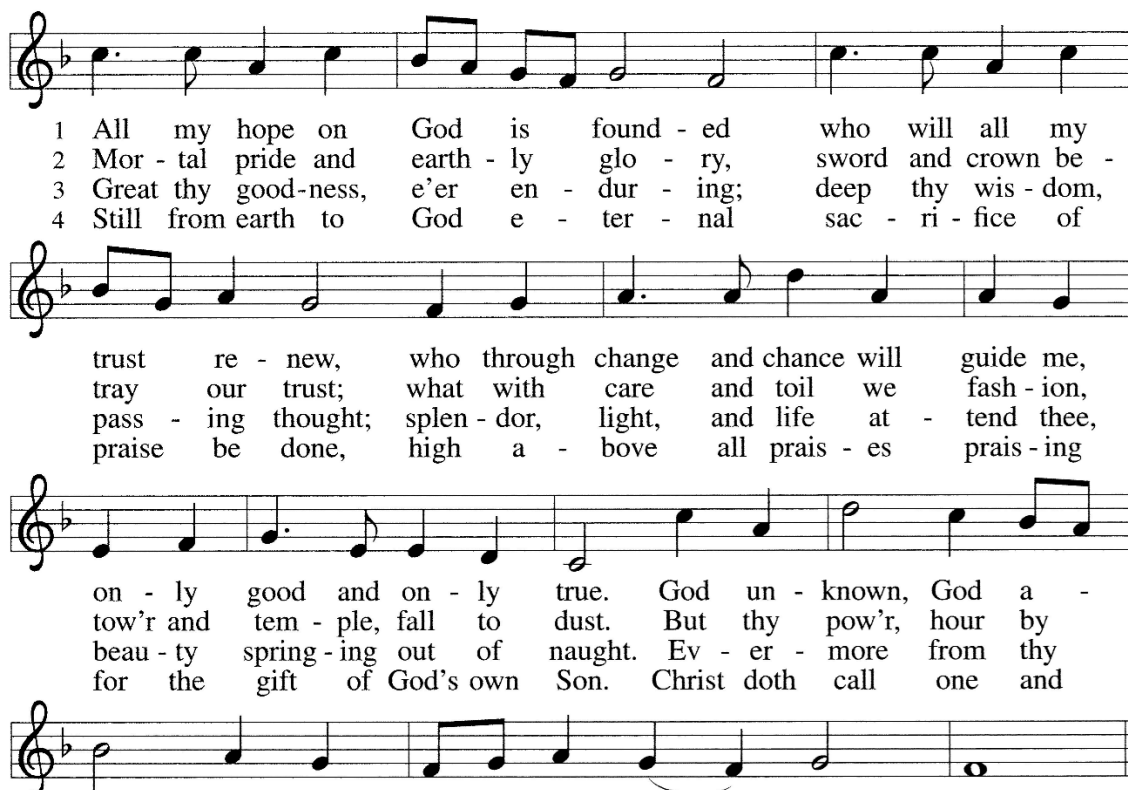
SERMON

"Duct Tape Discipleship"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

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1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and

lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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, **Jackie** Woodrome

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.*

OFFERTORY “Praise God”

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.

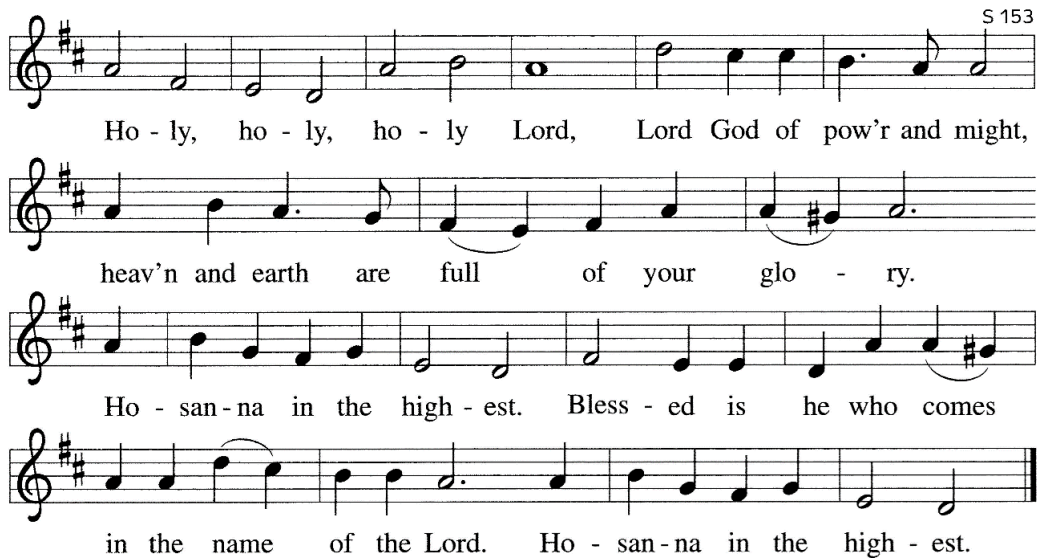
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.



EUCHARISTIC 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.

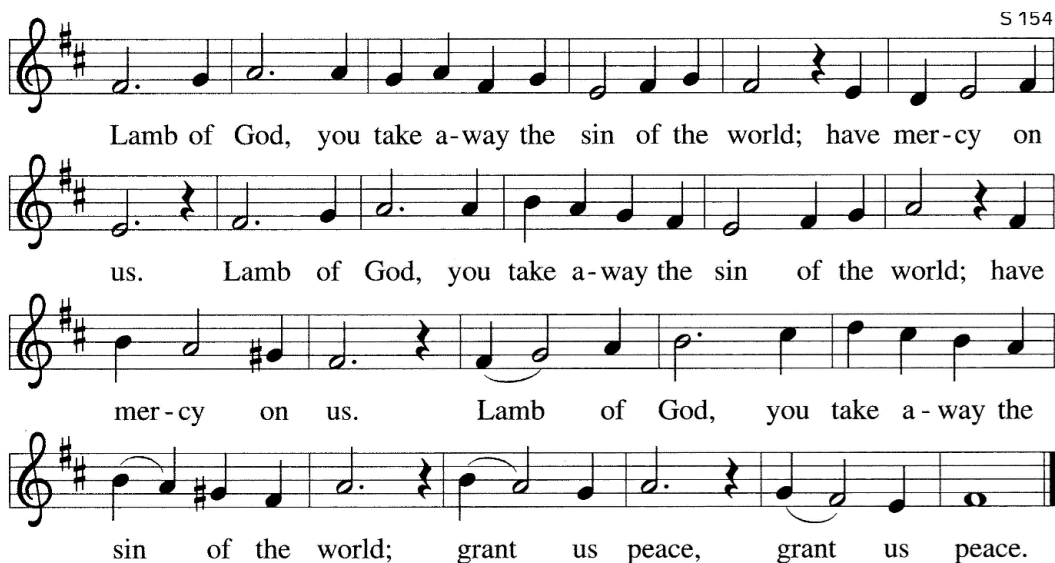
**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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:

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW 810

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW 768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.
Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.
Refrain
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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.**

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be con-se-crated, Lord, to thee;
take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move at the im-
2 Take my sil-ver and my gold, not a mite
3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on-
4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be

pulse of thy love; take my feet and let
would I with-hold; take my in-tel-lect
ly for my King; take my lips and let
no lon-ger mine; take my heart, it is

Refrain

them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
and use ev-'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
them be filled with mes-sag-es from thee.
thine own; it shall be thy roy-al throne.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Fugue”

Pachelbel

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther

Lector: Charlie Duncan + **Crucifer:** Rex Rothgangel

Chalice Bearer & Tech Minister: Mike Murakami + **Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

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, 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 Martisusz, 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

Randi Cardoza (9/7), Diane Wagner (9/10), and Natalie Hayes (9/12)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Joe & Kara Monfre (9/10) and Bethany & Kristopher Thilmont (9/11)

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 September 7, 2025

Tuesday, Sept. 9:	5:30PM	Food Pantry meeting – conference room
Wednesday, Sept. 10:	9:00AM	Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting – conference room
Thursday, Sept. 11:	4:00PM	Chancel choir
	5:30PM	Men's Chorus
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
Saturday, Sept. 13:	10:00AM	Heroes & Hand-Me-Downs – church parking lot

THIS IS IT!

Heroes & Hand-Me-Downs: The Great Church Lot Bash is happening in the big parking lot (the corner of D and High Streets) **NEXT 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 or sign-up on the sheet on the St. Mark table in the narthex.

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!

We need all hands on deck to make this event a success! Volunteers are needed for: **traffic/parking control**; coordination and **assistance with tailgate sale booths**; **food distribution**; **game helpers**; **character/photo op attendants**; **runners**; and more! Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the St. Mark tables in the Parish Hall and in the Narthex.

This event for our community will be our "God's Work. Our Hands" for this year, so wear your yellow GWOH t-shirts, or your St. Mark shirts!



Mental Health Class Canceled

The class on *Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide Awareness/Prevention* scheduled for Saturday, September 20 and presented by Chestnut Health Systems has been **indefinitely postponed by the presenter**. We will update you if and when a new date is scheduled.

Choirs Rehearsals - Note NEW TIMES

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!

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 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

Article 3: Vaccine Schedules and Staying Up to Date

Staying protected from preventable diseases requires following recommended vaccine schedules throughout life. Childhood immunizations begin at birth and continue through adolescence, covering diseases such as hepatitis B, polio, measles, chickenpox, and HPV. These early vaccines provide protection during the most vulnerable years and lay the foundation for long-term health.



For adults, vaccination remains just as important. Annual flu shots are recommended for everyone over six months old, while tetanus boosters are needed every ten years. Shingles and pneumococcal vaccines help protect older adults, and COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be updated to respond to evolving variants. Adults who missed certain childhood vaccines, such as MMR or HPV, should catch up as soon as possible.

Some vaccines require periodic updates because certain viruses mutate frequently. The seasonal flu vaccine is reformulated each year to address the most common circulating strains. Similarly, updated COVID-19 vaccines account for waning immunity and new variants.

Getting vaccinated is simple—most vaccines are available at doctors' offices, health clinics, and pharmacies. By keeping up with recommended vaccines, people of all ages can protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. History has shown that vaccines are one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent serious illness and death.

Second Saturday Food Pantry Donations

Sunday, September 14 is the **monthly food collection** for our pantry. This month we're asking for donations of **canned meats**, and **items for kids**, i.e. **pudding cups, individual snacks, cookies, and snack bars**.



GriefShare Update and Save-the-Date

Unfortunately, we did not have enough people sign-up for the full GriefShare session that was to begin last Tuesday, and thus we were forced to cancel it. However, we will again offer the one-day, two-hour GriefShare ***Surviving the Holidays*** event on Saturday, November 15 at 1:00PM. More information will be available soon.

Offerings (8/31): Gen. Fund: **\$2,830.99**; Food Pantry: \$75