

Mark Times

News & Notes for July 19, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, July 20:

Pastor on Vacation July 20 to July 23

2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor

Wednesday, July 23:

Traveling VBS (11:30A & 12:00P) – *see below*

Thursday, July 24:

6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

TRAVELING VBS with Super Heroes Deborah and Daniel

The Evangelism/Social Ministry and Christian Education committees are teaming up again this year in a new way to share God's Love during this year's Summer Sack Lunch program! A **20-minute traveling VBS program** will take place at four different locations already established as Summer Sack Lunch distribution stops. Each program will include a bible story or skit, a craft or game and possibly music.



To make this program fun for everyone, **volunteers are needed!** 2026 is the second year for this new concept, so the number of participants is hard to determine therefore **we would like four volunteers to assist at each location.** Hough Park has one of the highest numbers of children receiving lunches (30) and serves our neighborhood Franklin school students! The Henry Raab school stop also has a high number of children receiving lunches (30). *Additional volunteers on those dates would be helpful!*

A volunteer sign-up is in the Parish Hall along with the Driver/Co-Pilot & Lunch Packers sign-up sheets.

DANIEL in the Lions' Den led by Jan Richards:

THURS Jul 23 11:00am to 11:20am Jefferson School Parking Lot

THURS Jul 23 11:45am to 12:05pm Hough Park Pavillion

THURS Jul 30 11:30am to 11:50am Swansea Trailer Park on Anna Street

THURS Jul 30 12:00pm to 12:20pm Henry Raab School Parking Lot

GUYS NITE 2026 - Aug 21 - SAVE THE DATE!

An evening where guys from St. Mark and St. George's meet for brats, beer, games, and fellowship – it *must* be the fourth-annual **Guys Nite!** We will again have both outdoor and indoor options! More details to be announced later, but mark your calendars now for **Friday, August 21** in the early evening, and start thinking of a neighbor or friend to bring along!



Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian is on vacation from tomorrow, Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23. In case of pastoral emergency, please notify Father Mark Ohlemeier of St. George's at **785-220-5528**

St. Mark Offerings for 7/12: General Fund: \$8,321

Synod Day on August 29 – Register Now!



All members are encouraged to attend a day of worship, learning, fellowship, and relationship-building for all generations in each of the six conferences of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. This is a follow-up to the Synod Assembly, but you do not have to have attended the assembly to be part of this event.

The date for our **West-Central Conference's** Synod Day is **Saturday, August 29** from **10:00AM to 3:00PM** at **Our Lord's Lutheran Church** in **Maryville**.

Each Synod Day's program includes: Cross-generational worship; Activities for children and families; Shared meal; State of the synod video; Q&A with synod staff; Four "Spirit Lab" workshop options (choose two) led by the synod staff; & "Mission moments" from each conference.

The cost is **\$10 per adult** (18 and over), \$5 for youth (3-17), and free for children under 3, capped at a total of \$25 per family. Registration is open now at **CSIS-ELCA.org/synoddays26** or by using the QR code. ***Registration closes August 10**



School Supply Collection for Franklin School Students & Staff



Our annual collection of school supplies to support Franklin Elementary **begins this week and continues through August 9**. A box and can are in the narthex.

Items needed: **plastic 3-prong folders - all colors; 24-count crayons; standard 10-count markers; earphones/ear buds** for computer use; **dry erase markers** – all colors; **highlighters** - all colors; **facial tissues; baby wipes; 1-gallon slider-style zip-lock bags; small glue sticks; sharpies; watercolor paint sets** (palette of 8 with brush); **3-ring binders 1" to 2"**.

Those who prefer not to shop may give monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens or electronically via <http://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-16FTT>

NOT needed: backpacks, spiral notebooks; loose-leaf paper; rulers; Elmer's glue; ballpoint pens; pencils.

Pool Party and Picnic on 8/1!

You're invited to our second St. Mark pool party and picnic, hosted by **Westhaven Pool & Racket Club** (1513 S. Illinois Street) on **Saturday, August 1** from **12 noon-5:00PM!**

Food and drinks will be **available to purchase on-site** (no outside food and drink allowed).

The **pool** will be open and ready to help us tackle the early August heat. **Pickleball** courts will be available as well. **If you plan on swimming, admission is \$10;** if you're not swimming, **admission is FREE!** *This event will again take the place of our annual August/September church picnic, so **bring your table games** and reignite those rivalries! ***A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.***

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program through August 7

Donations: Individually-packaged chips, pretzels, nut-free cookies, and juice pouches. Drop off at church or contact **Sherri Foppe** for other arrangements.

+ **Monetary gifts welcome:** Give to Sherri, Ann Martens, or online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7>

+ **Volunteers Needed for Packing** on **Wednesdays, 5–5:45PM** @Westview Baptist, and **Delivery** on **Thursdays, 10:35AM–1:00PM**

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall, or contact **Sherri** (618)791-6148 | cookinsherri2@gmail.com or **Ann** (618)235-7762 | ga72mart@charter.net