St. Mark Lutheran Church

A congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

welcomes you!

October 25, 2026



Reformation Sunday

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 *"A Mighty Fortress"* *M. Luther/M. Kim*

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Blessed be the Father, ☩Son, and Holy Spirit – the one God who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

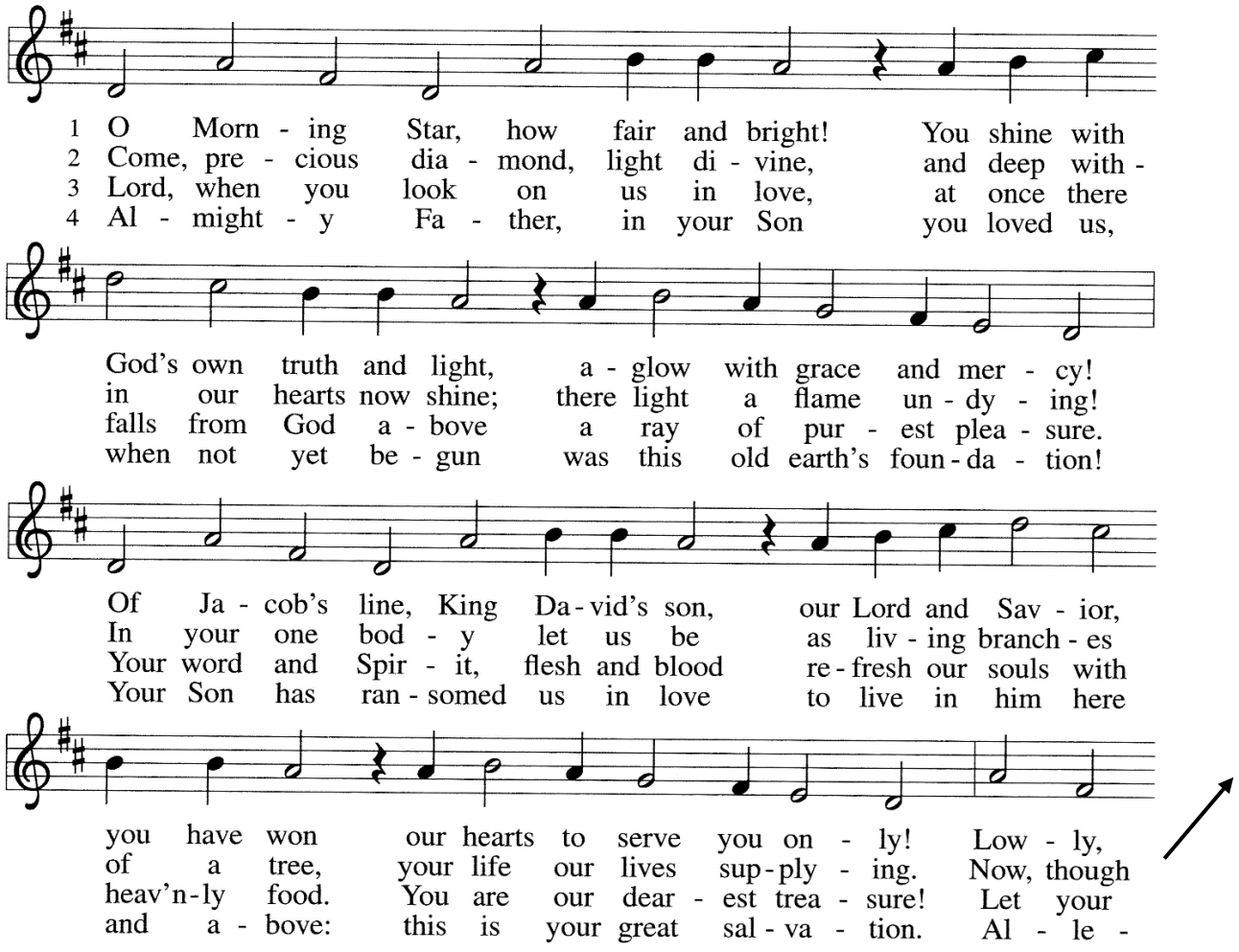
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
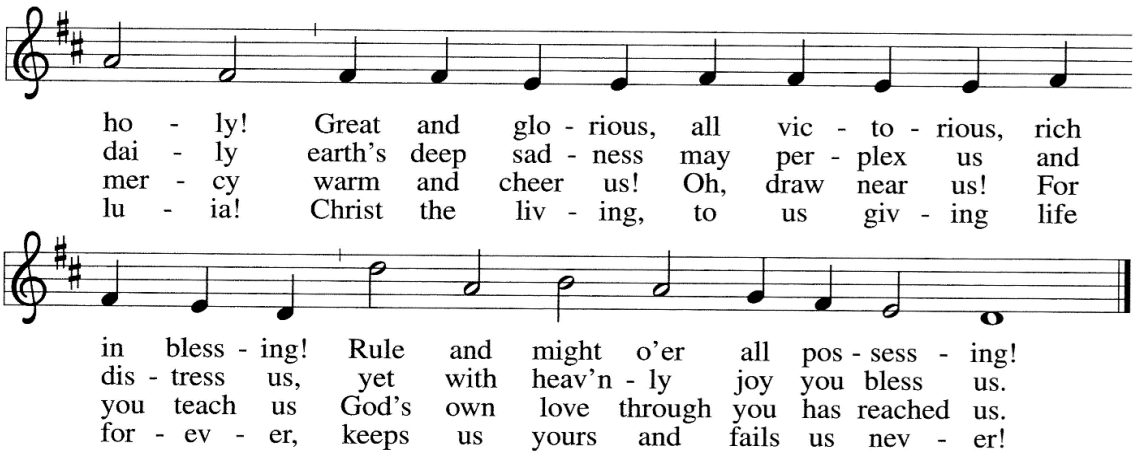
You may **KNEEL** *or* **remain as you are**. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive ☩ freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

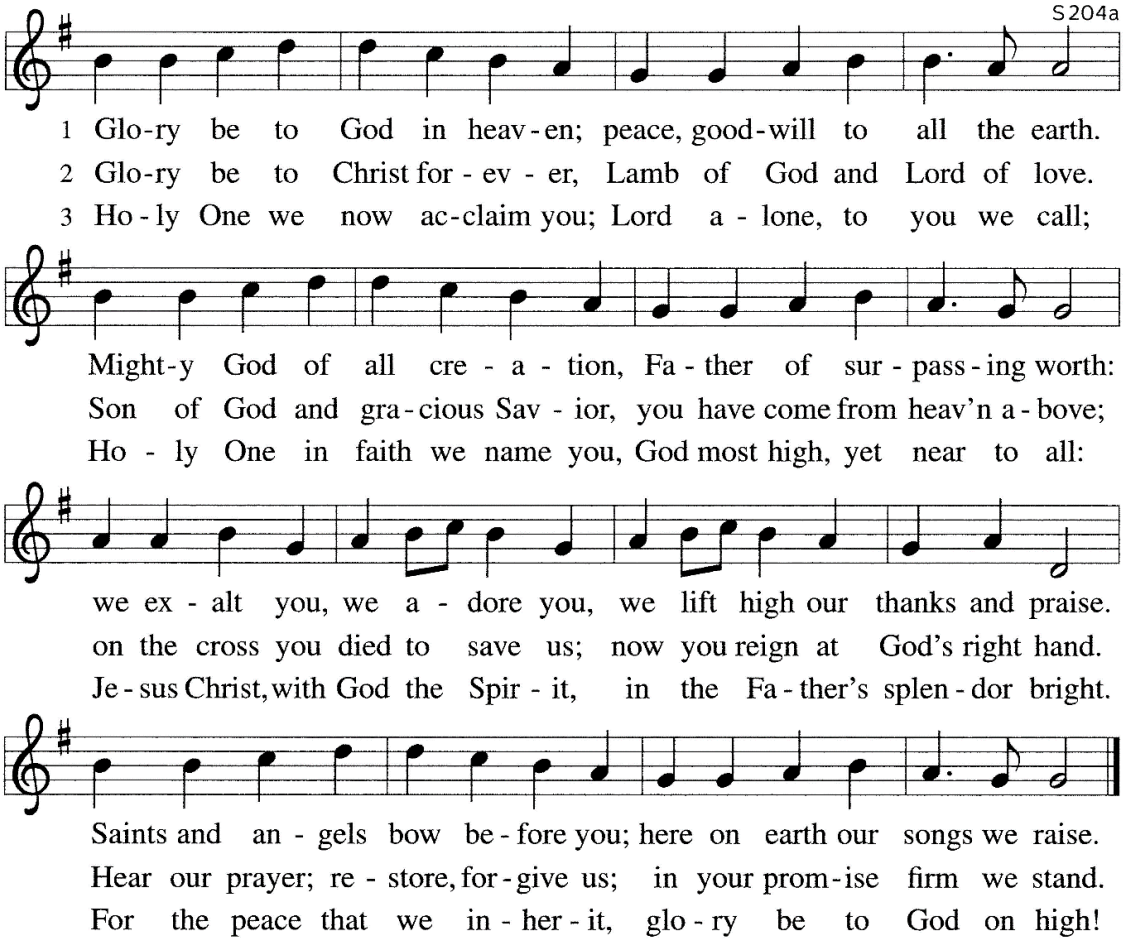
GATHERING HYMN "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" ELW 308 *Text & music: P. Nicolai*





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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE **ELW 204**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house
of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke,
though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it
on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach
one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of
them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no
more.

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

PSALM: "A Mighty Fortress" (Psalm 46) *Alternate text by Arvella Schuller*

1. A mighty for-tress i-s our God,
Our stronghold and prote--ction;
He is our ho-pe, our frie-nd, our guide,
The giver of salva--tion.
Our Lord is God alone,
He made the world his own;
God speaks and winds obey,
He rules 'til endless day;
His truth abides fore--ver.



2. Great and eter-nal i-s our God,
The God of all crea--tion;
God made the su-n to shi-ne through clouds,
And formed earth's deep founda--tion.
Rejoice and praise God's name,
His goodness will remain;
With strong and guiding hand,
Firm shall his justice stand;
God's promise is eter--nal.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

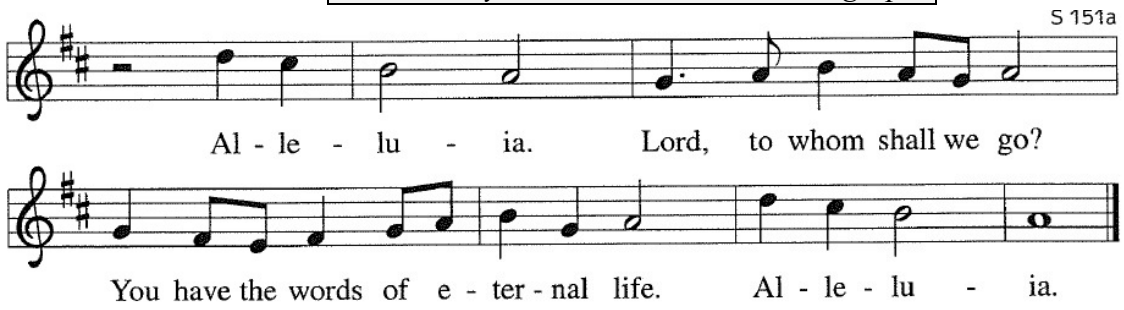
[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

[27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

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



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel… according to the apostle John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[31] Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." [33] They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34] Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35] The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36] So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. *Please* **SIT**

SERMON *"The Truth in the Church Basement"* **The Rev. Brian M. Robison**, *pastor*

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

HYMN OF THE DAY **"If God My Lord Be For Me"** **ELW 788** *Text: Paul Gerhardt*

Tune: *"Lead On, O King Eternal"*
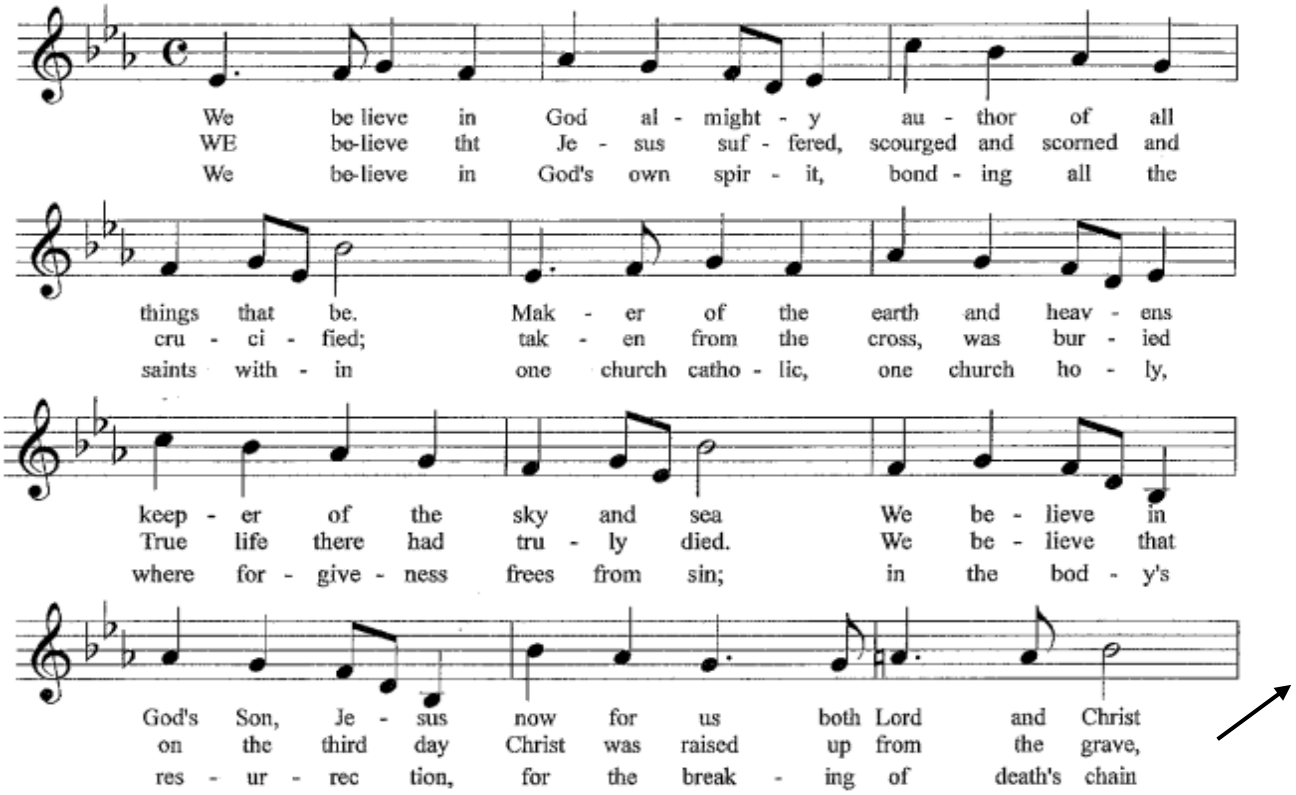
1. If God my Lord be for me,
I may a host defy;
for when I pray, before me
my foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and ma-ster,
befriend me from abo-ve,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love? ↓
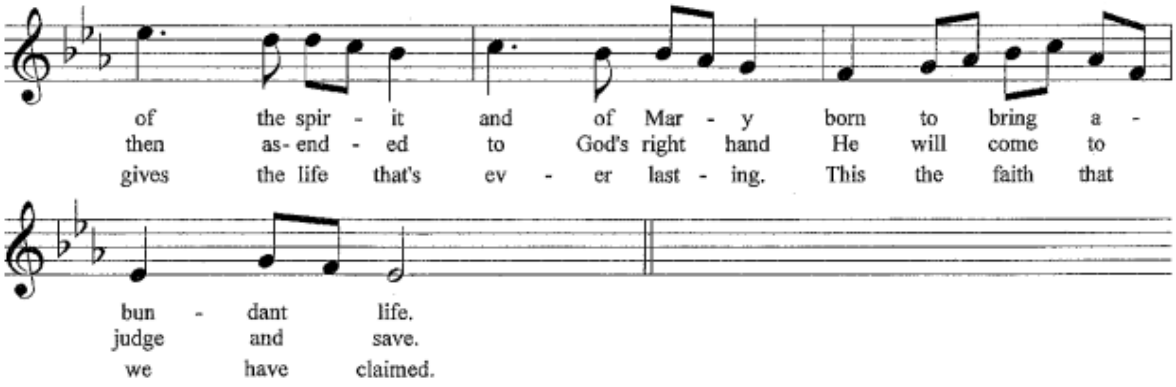
2. I build on this foundation,
that Jesus and his blood
alone are my salvation,
the true, eternal good.
Without him all that plea-ses
will vain and empty pro-ve.
The gifts I have from Jesus
alone are worth my love. ↗

3. Christ Jesus is my splendor,
my sun, my light, alone;
were he not my defender
before the judgment throne,
I never should find fa-vor
and mercy in God's si-ght,
but be destroyed forever
as darkness by the light.

4. For joy my heart is ringing;
all sorrow disappears;
and full of mirth and singing,
it wipes away all tears.
The sun that cheers my spi-rit
is Jesus Christ, my ki-ng;
the heav'n I shall inherit
makes me rejoice and sing.

CREED *tune: Austria*





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 "Hear us, O God," is* **"Your mercy is great."**

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Natalie & Cody** Best, **Don** Boatman, **Dave** Brauer, **Rob** Buck, **Cindy** Collingham, **Lorraine** Crannage, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Michael** Foppe**, Ola** Fulton**, Mary** Hill**, Morris** Kugler, **Diane** Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Lucy** Montgomery, **Ron** Neustadt, **Jon** Newton, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Wilma** Shroat, **Cohen** Summers, **Nancy** Tegtmeier, **Carol** Weshinskey**, Gary** Weshinskey, **Cheryl** Whitaker

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.*

HANDBELL CHOIR *"Canon in D"* Pachelbel

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…

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

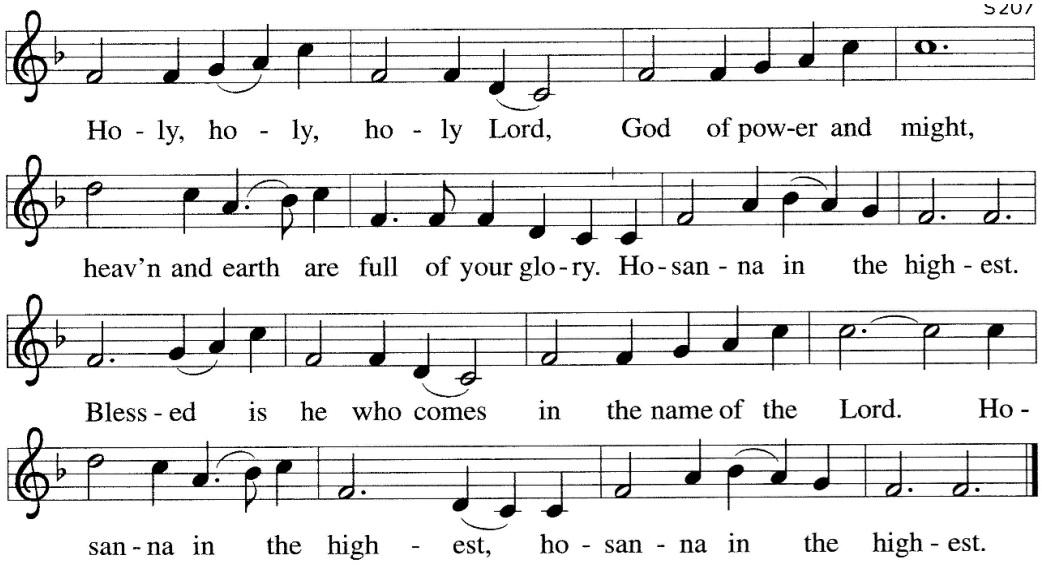
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
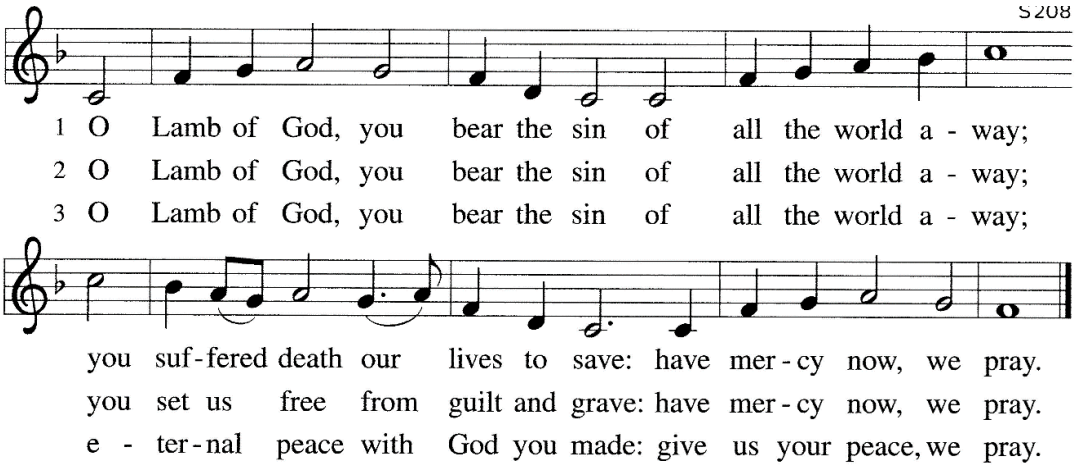
THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD *Please* SIT

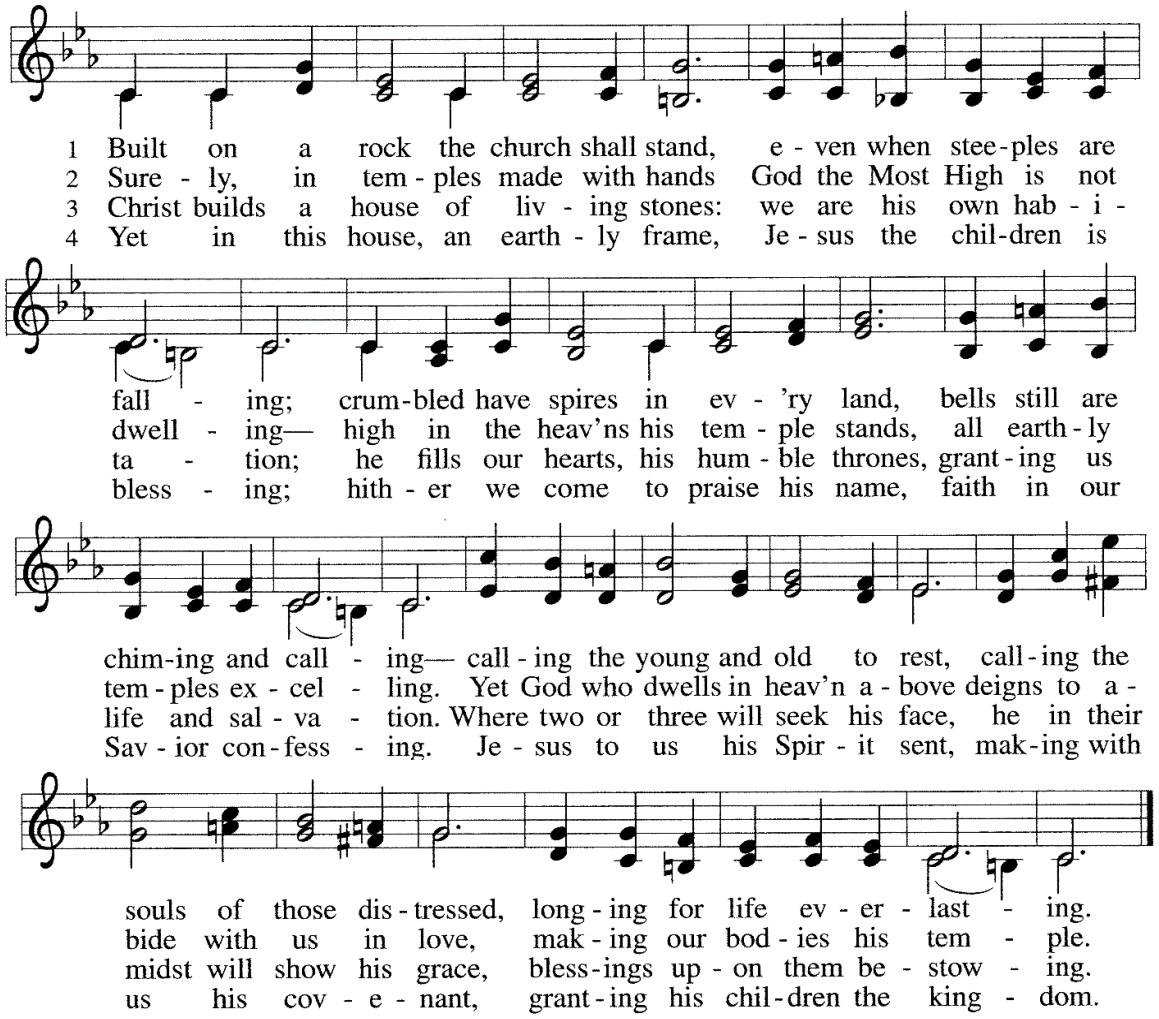


COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***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 "Built on a Rock" ELW 652



CHANCEL CHOIR *Just One Touch* *Carolyn Hamlin*

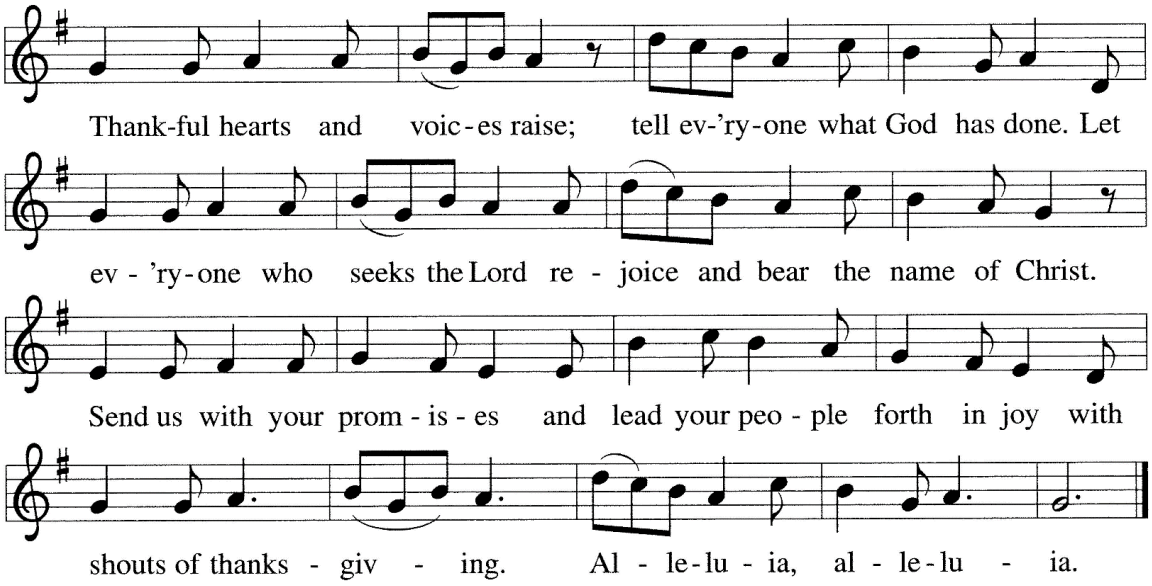
Words can be found on last page of bulletin

After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** *as you are able 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 "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" ELW 207



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together…

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

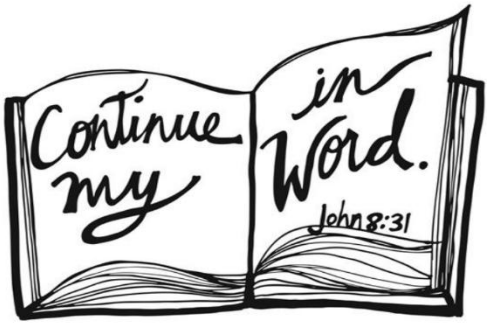
SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
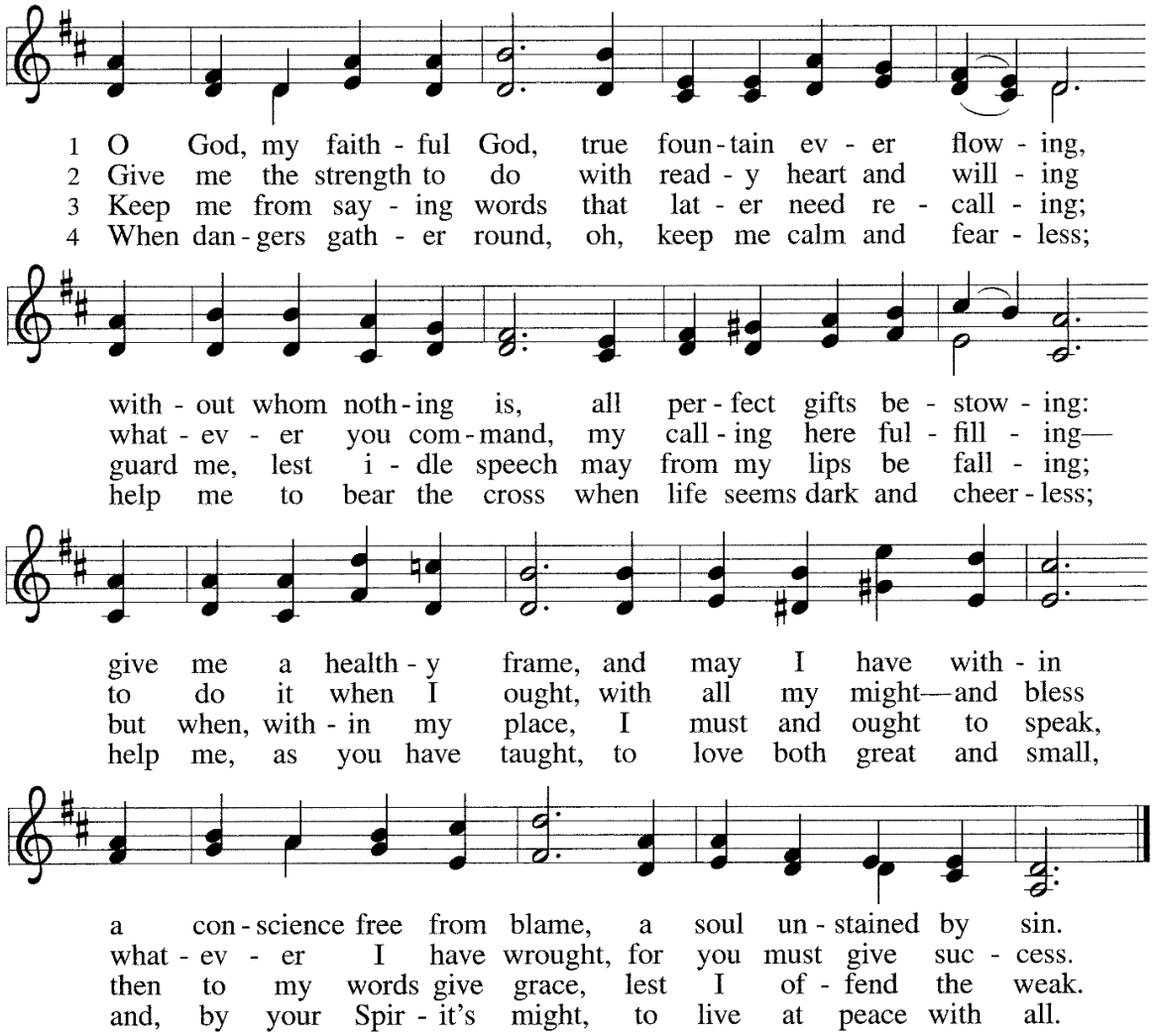
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



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SENDING HYMN "O God, My Faithful God" ELW 806 *Text: Johann Heerman*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *"Voice of Praise"* *E. Lorenz*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Charlie Duncan
Crucifer & Lector: Corbin Monfre + **Chalice Bearer:** Greg Martens
Tech Minister: Aaron Fuchs + **Safety Volunteer:** Tina Partelow
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Kathy Casey & Nancy Guenther

Prayer Intentions

Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Natalie & Cody Best, Don Boatman, Dave Brauer, Rob Buck, Cindy Collingham, Lorraine Crannage, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Ola Fulton, Mary Hill, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Ron Neustadt, Jon Newton, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Wilma Shroat, Cohen Summers, Nancy Tegtmeier, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, Cheryl Whitaker

Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, John Belz, Jim Boeving, Thomas Boxdorfer, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Susan Carson, Christine, Liliam Coleman, Robyn Combs, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Maryann Fernandez, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Goodall, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Glenna Hamilton, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Rachel Knicely, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby 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, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Larry Powers, Denise Sebastian, James Showmaker, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Tom Stookey, Ingrid Thompson, Gary Timm, Pat Tubbs, 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

Joshua Anthony, Ethan Collins, Tom Fox, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members celebrating birthdays this week

Ellie Geppert (10/25), Jason Martens (10/26), and Gary Weshinskey (10/28)

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Cheryl & Jason Martens (10/25) and Charlie & Evelyn Duncan (10/26)

Just One Touch *by Carolyn Hamlin*

Noisy crowds, dusty streets, hungry hearts, weary feet,
All were pressing just to see the One who healed from Galilee.
Through the crowd was one who moved to touch His robe,
to feel His love, Her hand reached out as Jesus passed.
"Who touched my robe?" the Savior asked.
With so many who touched Him, could one simple touch He know?
Just one touch brings you to the Savior, when you call His Holy Name.
On the cross where His heart was broken, He knew all your pain.
In great mercy He will cleanse you, wash your sin and make you new,
Through simple faith, and childlike trust, the Great Physician will heal you, too.
He raised the dead, He healed the lame, blinded eyes could see again.
This one who touched His robe that day found His grace, found His healing grace.
Just one touch brings you to the Savior when you call His Holy Name.
On the cross where His heart was broken, He knew all your pain.
In great mercy He will cleanse you, wash your sin and make you new,
Through simple faith, and childlike trust, the Great Physician will heal you, too.
The Great Physician will make your life brand new.

Mark Times

News & Notes for the week of October 25, 2026

Monday, October 26:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council - CR
Thursday, October 29:	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – *Parish Hall*
Friday, October 30:	5-8PM	Downtown Belleville Trick-or-Treat

Adult Forum: *Lutheran Hymnwriters: Nicolai, Heerman, Gerhardt*



On this Reformation Sunday morning we look at the lives and works of three influential Lutheran hymnwriters who collectively share October 26 as their commemoration day: **Philipp Nicolai**, **Johann Heermann**, and **Paul Gerhardt**.

Food Pantry Fundraiser THIS Tuesday!

WE have The Meats THIS Tuesday, October 27! St. Mark/St. G's Food Pantry is sponsoring a fund-raising event at **Arby's** at **Belleville Crossing**. Visit any time during their serving hours; drive-thru or dine-in are both acceptable! **You must** show the **flyer** or **mention the Food Pantry** event *prior to ordering*. We will receive 20% of all orders after $100 is spent. Tell your family and friends and help the pantry! Flyers will be available in the narthex/Canterbury Room.

Our All Saints Sunday worship service is NEXT Sunday, November 1 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. ***Please have your names written or submitted by noon on Thursday, October 29.****

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.

"Share the Warmth" – LAST DAY

Today is the last day of our drive to collect gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs**, etc. for the homeless in our area. **Mylar/mylar "space" blankets**, other gently used blankets, **handwarmers** and **new underwear for men and women** are also greatly appreciated. Contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with questions.

St. Mark Offerings for 10/18: General Fund: **$1,280**; Coffee Fund: $40; Food Pantry $107

Downtown Belleville Trick-or-Treat THIS Friday, October 30!



We're going **COOKIE CRAZY** at this year's Halloween event!! We will have three booth spaces from which to hand out hot chocolate, pre-packaged cookies, and where **COOKIE MONSTER** will take photos with kids (and adults!)

VOLUNTEERS 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 2-3 10 x 10 canopies and transport 5-gallon containers of hot chocolate/water from the church to our space. Hang church signs and decorate the space after the canopies are 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, and COOKIES: 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, canopies, & decorations, load and return items to the church and unload them.

We will also need a couple of folks to make sure Cookie Monster doesn't eat all the goodies!!!

St. Mark 50th Anniversary celebration!

St. Mark Lutheran Church turns 50 years old in December, and the anniversary committee has been hard at work planning events! A year of celebration kicks off on **Saturday, December 5 at 10:30AM** with a commemorative **worship service** in the place where it all started: the **Belleville Philharmonic Hall**. A luncheon in our Parish Hall follows. Watch for sign-up sheets and invitations in a couple of weeks!

GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 21



St. Mark will again offer a one-day, two-hour session of *Surviving the Holidays* to offer support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this holiday season with peace and assurance after the loss of a loved one. Join our special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 21** 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/294597

*If you've attended this session previously, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from another session in ways you can't anticipate.

Pumpkin Palooza returns November 15!



On Sunday, November 15, our eagerly anticipated **pumpkin bake sale** between and after all three services is back, with proceeds to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**. Bake a fall treat and bring before services on November 15!

Community Dinner Volunteers Needed

St. Mark members have been assisting St. Paul UCC occasionally with their **free Community Dinner on Tuesday evenings**. Over the last several months, the number of individuals attending the dinner has increased. We have been asked to provide **two volunteers** on **1st Tuesdays** to assist their existing team. Volunteers would **arrive at 3:45pm** and **finish about 6:00pm**. No heavy lifting involved! Contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com if you would like to assist once a month or every other month.