

# 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*